



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 161**

*January Session, 2003*

House Bill No. 6368

*House of Representatives, April 2, 2003*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. O'ROURKE of the 32nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT INCREASING THE STATUTORY THRESHOLDS UNDER THE STATE CODES OF ETHICS FOR FILING CERTAIN REPORTS AND FOR LOBBYISTS' REGISTRATIONS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 1-83 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2003*):

4 (b) (1) The statement of financial interests, except as provided in  
5 subdivision (2) of this subsection, shall include the following  
6 information for the preceding calendar year in regard to the individual  
7 required to file the statement and the individual's spouse and  
8 dependent children residing in the individual's household: (A) The  
9 names of all businesses with which associated; (B) the category or type  
10 of all sources of income in excess of [one] two thousand dollars,  
11 without specifying amounts of income; (C) the name of securities in

12 excess of [five] ten thousand dollars at fair market value owned by  
13 such individual, spouse or dependent children or held in the name of a  
14 corporation, partnership or trust for the benefit of such individual,  
15 spouse or dependent children; (D) the existence of any known blind  
16 trust and the names of the trustees; (E) all real property and its  
17 location, whether owned by such individual, spouse or dependent  
18 children or held in the name of a corporation, partnership or trust for  
19 the benefit of such individual, spouse or dependent children; (F) the  
20 names and addresses of creditors to whom the individual, the  
21 individual's spouse or dependent children, individually, owed debts of  
22 more than ten thousand dollars; and (G) any leases or contracts with  
23 the state held or entered into by the individual or a business with  
24 which he or she was associated. (2) The statement of financial interests  
25 filed by state marshals shall include only amounts and sources of  
26 income earned in their capacity as state marshals.

27 Sec. 2. Section 1-94 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
28 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

29 A lobbyist shall register with the commission pursuant to this part if  
30 [it or he] the lobbyist:

31 (1) Receives or agrees to receive compensation or reimbursement for  
32 actual expenses, or both, in a combined amount of [two] five thousand  
33 dollars or more in a calendar year for lobbying, whether that receipt of  
34 compensation or reimbursement or agreement to receive such  
35 compensation or reimbursement is solely for lobbying or the lobbying  
36 is incidental to that person's regular employment; or

37 (2) Makes or incurs an obligation to make expenditures of [two] five  
38 thousand dollars or more in a calendar year for lobbying.

39 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 1-96 of the general statutes is  
40 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
41 *October 1, 2003*):

42 (a) Each client lobbyist registrant shall file with the commission

43 between the first and tenth day of April, July and January a financial  
44 report, signed under penalty of false statement. The April and July  
45 reports shall cover its lobbying activities during the previous calendar  
46 quarter and the January report shall cover its lobbying activities  
47 during the previous two calendar quarters. In addition to such reports,  
48 each client lobbyist registrant which attempts to influence legislative  
49 action shall file, under penalty of false statement, interim monthly  
50 reports of its lobbying activities for each month the General Assembly  
51 is in regular session, except that no monthly report shall be required  
52 for any month in which it neither expends nor agrees to expend [one]  
53 five hundred dollars or more in furtherance of lobbying. Such interim  
54 monthly reports shall be filed with the commission no later than the  
55 tenth day of the month following the last day of the month reported. If  
56 the client lobbyist registrant is not an individual, an authorized officer  
57 or agent of the client lobbyist registrant shall sign the form. A  
58 communicator lobbyist for a municipality or any subdivision of a  
59 municipality, a branch of state government or any subdivision of state  
60 government or a quasi-public agency shall file the reports described in  
61 this subsection utilizing the client lobbyist reporting schedule.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

The bill is not expected to result in an administrative cost saving to the agency because it is not expected to significantly decrease the amount of paperwork the agency processes.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

HB 6368

***AN ACT INCREASING THE STATUTORY THRESHOLDS UNDER THE STATE CODES OF ETHICS FOR FILING CERTAIN REPORTS AND FOR LOBBYISTS' REGISTRATIONS*****SUMMARY:**

This bill increases the income and expenditure thresholds for individuals or organizations required to register as lobbyists with the State Ethics Commission.

It increases the amount lobbyists must spend (or agree to spend) to trigger a requirement that they file interim monthly reports of their lobbying activities with the commission.

Lastly, it increases the threshold for public officials to disclose income and securities on annual financial statements they file with the commission.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

**LOBBYISTS' REGISTRATION THRESHOLDS**

By law, individuals or organizations must register with the commission if they (1) communicate with or solicit others to communicate with a legislative or executive branch state official or employee to influence any legislative or administrative action and (2) receive or spend (or agree to receive or spend) at least \$2,000 to lobby in a calendar year. The bill increases the income and expenditure thresholds from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

**LOBBYISTS' FINANCIAL REPORTS**

By law, client lobbyists who attempt to influence legislation and who spend or agree to spend \$100 or more on lobbying in a single month must report statements of their lobbying activities monthly during the regular legislative session. The bill increases the expenditure threshold to \$500. These sessional reports are in addition to the quarterly reports these lobbyists must file. "Client lobbyists" lobby on their own behalf

while "communicator lobbyists" do so on behalf of one or more client lobbyists.

### **STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS**

The bill increases from over \$1,000 to over \$2,000 and from over \$5,000 to over \$10,000, respectively, the threshold for disclosing categories and types of income and securities on annual statements of financial interests filed with the commission. By law, public officials must disclose this information about themselves, their spouse, and any dependent children living at home.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 17      Nay 0